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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

USA Patent Application
Herbert Breinich, et al
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Group art unit: 2859

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Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Respectfully submitted herewith is a copy of a German Patent
Office Search Report (3 pages) from the parallel German
application 100 63 875.9 of which the present application claims
priority, together with copies of its 7 cited references.

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In the German Patent Office Search Report the references listed
in category A mean these documents define the general background
state of the art. The references listed in category Y mean these
documents place the invention in question with respect to the
listed claims when these documents are combined with other
documents. The references listed in category X mean that these
documents are of particular relevance, and the claimed invention
cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when these
documents are taken alone, with respect to the listed claims.

In the German Patent Office Search Report the words "Kategorie"

means category, "Ermittelte Druckschriften/Erläuterungen" means transmitted publications/explanations, "Betrifft Anspruch" means concerning claim, "Anspruch" means claim, "Figur", means Figure or illustration, "siehe restliche Entgegenhaltungen auf Angle 1;", means see remaining references on attachment 1. Since this translation now points out in English the relevant portions of the citations listed in the German Patent Office Search Report, and since the two Patent Abstracts of Japan are in the English language, no further concise explanation is required under 1138 OG 38. Nevertheless please see Figs. and corresponding text of the references for relevance.

A PTO-1449 form is presented listing the 7 submitted references.

Translations of the foreign language references are not available to the undersigned.

This submission meets the requirements of 37 CFR §1.56, 1.97 and 1.98(a) and MPEP 609.

Respectfully submitted

Herbert Breinlich, et al

by: _____

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, German Patent Office Search Report, 1 PTO-1449 form and 7 references are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 18, 2002.

Dated: April 18, 2002

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